

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /028 W

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R 071455Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 3209

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

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E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : PFOR, BA, IR

SUBJECT : PERSIAN GULF NOMENCLATURE PROBLEM

1. DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY TEHRAN SHOULD BE AWARE, JUST UN CASE,
OF HOPEFULLY MINOR INCIDENT INVOLVING INADVERTENT USE OF
PHRASE "ARABIAN GULF".

2. AT JUNE 30 MIDDLE EAST FORCE CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY
PROGRAM HANDED OUT TO INVITED GUESTS CONTAINED ON LAST
PAGE DESCRIBING MIDDLE EAST FORCE MISSION THE WORDS "ARABIAN
GULF" WHERE "PERSIAN GULF" SHOULD HAVE BEEN. THIS WAS
CLEARLY UNINTENTIONAL SLIP-UP MADE AT LOW LEVEL IN PUTTING
TOGETHER PROGRAM.

3. I BELIEVE THIS ERROR ESCAPED ALMOST EVERYONE'S ATTENTION;
I CERTAINLY MISSED IT. UNHAPPILY IRANIAN AMBASSADOR'S
WIFE, WHOM I ESCORTED TO THE CEREMONY AT HIS REQUEST IN HIS
ABSENCE, WAS IDLY FLIPPING THROUGH PROGRAM ON THE WAY HOME AND
NOTICED THE OFFENDING WORD. WHEN SHE CALLED IT TO MY ATTENTION
I ASSURED HER IT WAS AN ERROR OF WHICH NO SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL
WAS AWARE AND IN NO WAY REPRESENTED ANY KIND OF U.S. POLICY WITH
REGARD TO PROPER NOMENCLATURE OF PERSIAN GULF. SHE SAID SHE
WOULD HAVE TO TELL HER HUSBAND WHEN HE GOT BACK.

4. UPON HIS RETURN I TALKED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WITH IRANIAN

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AMBASSADOR BEFORE, APPARENTLY WITH REAL EMBARRASSMENT, HE

DECIDED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO BRING UP THE MATTER. HE CALLED ON ME JULY 6 TO RAISE IT, EXPLAINING THAT HE FEARS SOMEONE ELSE WOULD TELL TEHRAN IF HE DOES NOT. HE ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION WHICH WOULD PUT THE MATTER REST. I ASSURED HIM THIS HAD BEEN AN UNINTENTIONAL "ONE-TIME" ERROR AND ARRANGED TO CALL ON HIM JULY 7 WITH COMMANDER MIDDLE EAST FORCE ADMIRAL CROWE.

5. JULY 7 ADMIRAL CROWE AND I CALLED ON IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO ASSURE HIM THIS HAD BEEN A ONE-TIME SLIP-UP MADE AT A LOW LEVEL, THAT STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO PREVENT ITS RECURRENCE, AND THAT IN NO WAY DID IT REPRESENT USG OR US NAVY POLICY OR PRACTICE. IN ACCEPTING APOLOGY IRANIAN AMBASSADOR GAVE EVERY INDICATION HE WOULD DESCRIBE THE INCIDENT TO TEHRAN FOR WHAT IT WAS AND RECOMMEND THE MATTER BE ALLOWED TO DROP.

6. COMMENT: BUT ONE NEVER KNOWS.
TWINAM

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